



City of Huntington Beach  
Community Services Commission

## **PARK NAMING AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 16, 2016  
Civic Center, Meeting Room B-7  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members Present: Bridget Kaub (acting ex officio), Michael Couey, Albert Gasparian, J.D. Miles, Roy Miller

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez

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Committee Chair, Commissioner Couey, called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm.

Chair Couey welcomed the audience and announced that Committee has been asked to consider criteria for park naming, and the naming or renaming of three parks, including Arevalos, Wardlow, and the former Lamb School site. He called for public comments, instructing speakers that they are limited to 3-minutes and no action can be taken on anything today that is not on the agenda.

### **Public Comments**

Rocky Ciarelli spoke regarding naming a park after his father, Frank Ciarelli, a long time resident and a City employee from 1944 – 1993. He coached and mentored youth, helped start the Rec program in the 1950s, and was very involved in the community.

Patrick Dibb spoke in support of naming a park after Frank Ciarelli. Characteristics included a good citizen and contributor to the community.

Alan Gandall spoke regarding his desire to see sports fields named during the naming process.

For the benefit of the public in attendance, Dominguez stated that the Park Naming & Memorials Committee is part of the Community Services Commission. They have been charged with constructing a recommendation regarding the naming or renaming of the three parks and presenting it to Commission as a whole for approval prior to providing the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

Dominguez provided a brief history saying that although Wardlow and Arevalos have been around for years and were named for the adjacent schools, which at the time, were part of the Fountain Valley School District (FVSD). Dominguez said that The City of Huntington Beach, Resolution No. 2004-90 reads, "that parks adjacent to schools be named the same as the school." He pointed out, however, that the schools these parks

were named for are no longer standing and housing tracts sit in their place. The options are for the names to remain the same or for Committee to form a recommendation for new names. The third park, on the former Lamb School site, wasn't in existence when the school was standing and, therefore, requires official naming. He said that at one time the school was converted into the FVSD's district offices. When FVSD sold the land, Huntington Beach purchased 2.6 acres, and the developer of the housing tract built a brand new park for the City of Huntington Beach, creating the need for an official name for the park.

Dominguez informed Committee that a late communication from Chris Jepsen had been included with their agenda packet that provides additional information on Mr. Lamb. He reminded Committee that at the October 1, 2015 meeting, information was provided on Mr. Lamb, Mr. Wardlow and Mr. Arevalos describing them as prominent individuals within Fountain Valley. This document provides additional historical information on Mr. Lamb specifically.

As public comments conclude, Dominguez remind those in attendance that should they be interested in more information as this process develops, they can find minutes and agendas for this and future meetings listed on the City's website.

Committee Chair Couey asked for written communications. Dominguez said that the few received are included in the agenda packet. Dominguez noted that one communication was received from Commissioner Miles. Commissioner Miles addressed the names he submitted by stating that he did not personally know any of the people on the list or their families; however, he researched individuals on the internet who lived in Huntington Beach and who appeared to have provided significant contributions to the City. Discussion continued about the names on the list, their qualities and contributions.

Dominguez said that other than the names of two individuals who have been previously submitted, Frank Seuer and Frank Ciarelli, and the list provided by Commissioner Miles, no other names have been submitted. He stated that per the request of Committee, additional public notification was made regarding this meeting and the naming/renaming of the parks. Notices were mailed to a 500 foot radius of the parks, published in the local newspaper, posted on the City website, a slide added on HBTv-3, and notices were posted in all three parks.

Discussion continued on the history of the individuals associated with the park names, Resolution 2004-90, current parks and how they were named, and the criteria to consider going forward, including the development of a matrix and how to weigh the eligibility of a potential individual or event. There was additional discussion on the possibility of naming a field or other amenity within a park after an individual or event. Dominguez said that once Committee has determined a recommendation on the current task at hand, then further recommendations can be made to Commission.

In discussing the criteria and the significance one must have on the City in order to be worthy of having a park named after them, Dominguez, Dominguez introduced Kathie Schey, Vice Chair of the Historic Resources Board (HRB), who was in

attendance. Mrs. Schey introduced herself, giving a little background of her qualifications, saying she has been on the HRB since 2008, sits on the Design Review Board, and is a member of Orange County Historical Board. She said she would be happy to bring a request for assistance to the HRB in determining a list of qualified individuals for consideration. She gave the board examples of individuals who may be on the list and why.

There was further discussion on a criteria matrix and what would constitute the eligibility for consideration. The discussion included criteria recommendations made at the October 1 meeting and expanded to include the following:

An individual must be a resident of the City or have a personal tie to the City. They must have had a significant positive impact or contribution to the City as a whole and have been widely recognized.

Dominguez said that he will add a founding or historical impact and community involvement (such as what area or scope of involvement) as weighting measurements in the criteria matrix.

Conclusion: Committee directed staff to work on a criteria matrix and to work with the HRB on an extensive list of names or event that includes historical information. Once this information is compiled, a meeting will be schedule for presentation to Committee.

There being no further business, Commissioner Miles moved for adjournment and seconded by Commissioner Miller. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez  
Secretary  
Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary